

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 31050

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJ: NOVEMBER 30 DINNER WITH LOPEZ PORTILLO FAMILY

REF: MEXICO 14965

1. ON EVENING NOVEMBER 30, LOPEZ PORTILLO FAMILY HOSTED A DINNER AT THEIR HOME WITH MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER, SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER, AND MR. JACK FORD AS GUESTS OF HONOR. ATMOSPHERE WAS ONE OF OPEN FRIENDLINESS AND INFORMALITY -- PRACTICALLY A FAMILY OCCASION. GUESTS INCLUDED NEWLY-NAMED SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS SANTIAGO ROEL GARCIA AND HIS WIFE, THE PHILLIP ALSTONS, PAUL AUSTINS, AND ROBERT CHAMBERS OF ATLANTA, AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR AND MRS. JOVA.

2. IN INFORMAL TOASTS AND REMARKS MADE JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT, PRESIDENT-ELECT EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE PERSONAL PRESENCE OF MRS. CARTER IN MEXICO FOR THE INAUGURATION, AND MADE THE POINT THAT MEXICO AND THE US WERE BEGINNING NEW ADMINISTRATIONS ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE ADDRESSED SECRETARY KISSINGER NOTING THE FACT THE HE REPRESENTED PRESIDENT FORD, AND COMMENTING ON HIS PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SECRETARY AND ON THE LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF US-MEXICAN FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION.

3. IN REPLY, TO LOPEZ-PORTILLO REMARKS, MRS. CARTER THANKED THE PRESIDENT-ELECT ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND, AND EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S SPECIAL INTEREST
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IN LATIN AMERICA AND IN MEXICO IN PARTICULAR.

4. PRESIDENT-ELECT SPOKE SEPARATELY TO MR. JACK FORD, WHOM HE THANKED IN AN EXTREMELY WARM MANNER FOR HIS PRESENCE, EMPHASIZING HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE HOSPITALITY THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS FAMILY SHOWED TO THE LOPEZ PORTILLOS DURING THEIR VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT: WITHOUT DOUBT DECEMBER 1 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANT DAY IN THE LIVES OF THE LOPEZ PORTILLOS. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT, AS DAY BEGAN, THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS ENGAGED IN ENTERTAINING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AND SPECIALLY INVITED AMERICAN GUESTS. THE OCCASION WAS ONE FOR WHICH HE AND HIS FAMILY HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE AND MADE EXTENSIVE SPECIAL EFFORTS. PREVIOUSLY (SEE MEXICO 14965) LOPEZ PORTILLO FAMILY HAD ASKED THAT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 1 DINNERS SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD, NOT APPARENTLY WISHING OTHER NATIONS TO CONCLUDE THAT TOO MUCH WAS BEING DONE FOR THE US. LAST NIGHT, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN SHOWING THAT HE AND HIS ADMINISTRATION INTENDED TO CARRY OUT AN EXTREMELY CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE REALIZED THE US HAD A SIMILAR DESIRE AND INTENTION FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH MEXICO, DEMONSTRATED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER, THE SON OF THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT AND THE WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT.
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